

Exploring the Anza Trail

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

The Juan Bautista de Anza
National Historic Trail



San Francisco - The Presidio



Mounted riders arrive each year on horseback on June 27 to celebrate the original founding of the Presidio in 1776.

A wealth of history and landscapes

As the northern most fort on the Spanish frontier, the San Francisco Presidio was seen as a crucial defense for Spanish Alta California in 1776. When the Anza expedition arrived here in the summer of that year, the task that confronted them was tremendous - to build a settlement on the edge of the Spanish Empire. The landscape was barren, the resources limited, but the potential was tremendous. With hard work and determination, the group of settlers built the foundation of the city that would become one of the greatest in the world. Today, the San Francisco Presidio is managed by the National Park Service and is home to the final four miles of the 1,200 mile Juan Bautista de Anza National Trail.

Educational Opportunities

Teachers working on fourth grade social studies curriculum concerning California history may be interested in hiking with their class along the final segment of the Anza Trail. The route runs across the Presidio, beginning at historic Mountain Lake and ending at Fort Point on the base of the Golden Gate Bridge.

To enjoy the trail, see the landscape, and have an opportunity to do a little hiking, teachers should plan on 2-4

hours in the Presidio. A variety of bus lines run to Mountain Lake and through the Presidio.

As available, a park ranger will accompany teachers and conduct a curriculum based program on the Anza Trail. Please contact trail headquarters at : (510) 817 1323 or david_smith@nps.gov and ask for Ranger David Smith. All programs are free and are available in English and Spanish.